AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended): A disk medium managing method for managing data to be recorded on a disk medium by file format and representing a hierarchical structure by directories, comprising:

pre-defining an area on the disk medium as a directory by storing on the disk medium area location information for the area, and

recording files and directories within the area defined as the directory based on the stored area location information.

Claim 2 (previously presented): A disk medium managing method as defined in claim 1, further comprising hierarchically pre-defining a further directory in an area within the area pre-defined on the disk medium as the directory.

Claim 3 (previously presented) A disk managing method as defined in claim 1, further comprising selectively deciding whether the area is pre-defined on the disk medium or not.

Claim 4 (previously presented) A disk medium managing method as defined in claim 1, wherein hierarchical definition of the directory for pre-defining the area on the disk medium is restricted by that the directory must be defined under a directory having a pre-defined area on the disk medium.

Claim 5 (previously presented): A disk medium managing method as defined in any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the area pre-defined on the disk medium is continuously arranged thereon.

Claim 6 (previously presented): A disk medium managing method as defined in any one of claims 1 to 4, further comprising calculating a maximal time of seeking data in the areas pre-defined on the disk medium.

Claim 7 (previously presented): A disk medium managing method as defined in any one of claims 1 to 4, further comprising specifying a maximal allowable time of seeking data in an area to be pre-defined on the disk medium and calculating an area on the disk medium satisfying the specified allowable seek time.